



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,396	01/22/2002	Giovanni Lonoce	IT 010001	7187
24737	7590	01/07/2004	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			SHENG, TOM V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2673	

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2004

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055,396

Applicant(s)

LONOCE ET AL.

Examiner

Tom V Sheng

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2673

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the claim, lines 2-4, the phrase "a memory in which a look-up table is stored for receiving the input video signal to control the amplitude of the input video signal in response to the control information" is unclear. Is the amplitude control residing in the memory or in the control information?

4. Claims 7-8 recite the limitation "the input video signal (VS3)" in claim 7, line 4 and claim 8, line 4. Claim 11 recites the limitations "the encoder" in line 1 and "the coded message" in line 2. Claim 12 recites the limitation "the coded message" in line 1. There are insufficient antecedent bases for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (US 5,978,041).

Art Unit: 2673

As for claims 1 and 13-16, Matsuda teaches a system (image display system; figure 48; column 38, lines 3-26) for increasing the brightness of a portion of a video signal, the system comprising:

a signal-generating unit (picture signal output means 351) for supplying the video signal (picture signal) and control information (control signal), and

an LCD unit (picture display means 350) having an LCD device (liquid crystal display 9; figure 12) for displaying the video signal (picture signal), and a lighting unit (a backlight is inherent in any high quality LCD display; column 20, lines 44-58).

Moreover, terminals 353 and 354 (figure 49) for receiving the picture and control signals respectively represent claimed interface.

Matsuda does not teach increasing an amount of light illuminating the LCD device in response to the control information and that the system further comprising a video amplitude-modifying means for decreasing an amplitude of the video signal outside the portion in response to the control information. On the other hand, Matsuda teaches a specific area brightness conversion means (figure 49; column 38, lines 27-62) that is integrated with the picture display means 350. Further, Matsuda teaches that this specific area brightness conversion means comprises an amplitude control means 3110 and a DC level control means 3111. The amplitude control means 3110 is used to control the signal amplitude of the overall composite picture (picture A; when control voltage cont. is not active) and the composing portion (picture B; when control voltage cont. is supplied). The DC level control means 3111 is used to control the DC level of the overall composite picture only (picture A) and is set by the power source 3114.

Art Unit: 2673

Matsuda teaches that when displaying picture B, the control voltage cont. (the control signal) is increased from 0 V to p V thus increasing the amplitude and resulting in a bright picture B with brightness elsewhere kept unchanged (figure 50, column 38, line 63 to column 39, line 14).

One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Matsuda's method of enhancing brightness in picture B while maintaining the original brightness elsewhere is equivalent to applicant's method of first increasing the overall backlight and subsequently decreasing the amplitude of video signal outside the interested portion or picture B. This is clear because the DC level of the video signal in a LCD device directly corresponds to the backlight intensity.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Matsuda's method in a reverse manner because both methods are equivalent in result.

As for claim 2, Matsuda's amplitude control means 3110 and DC control means 3111 read on claimed video-processing circuit. Matsuda's picture composition means 3103 and interface 352 read on claimed video adapter and control unit respectively.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected per analyses of claims 1 and 2. Maintaining a color just means maintaining the intensities of the respective primary color (R,G,B) signals.

As for claim 5, Matsuda's amplitude control means 3110 that controls the amplitude of a picture signal (Video1) based on a control signal (cont.) reads on claimed controllable amplifier.

Art Unit: 2673

As for claim 6, Matsuda's ROM 3405 reads on claimed memory in which a look-up table is stored.

As for claim 7, Matsuda's amplitude control means is within display means 350. However, its location can be changed to the picture signal output means without affecting the operation of the display system.

As for claims 10-12, it is not patentively distinct whether the control information is in a coded form or not.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior arts teaches the recitation "wherein the video adapter (VA) comprises a video memory (VM), and the control unit (BCU) comprises a calculating unit (CU) suitably programmed to write adapted video data (VDI) into the video memory (VM) to obtain the input video signal (VS3) having an amplitude for a part not corresponding to the portion which is smaller than an amplitude of a part corresponding to the portion" of claim 8 and "wherein the signal-generating unit (PC) comprises an

Art Unit: 2673

input device (ID) for receiving user input (UI), the control unit (BCU) being suitably programmed to generate the control information (CI) in response to the user input (UI) indicating a predetermined amount by which the light output of the lighting unit (LU) has to be increased" of claim 9.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V Sheng whose telephone number is (703) 305-6708. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tom Sheng
January 2, 2004


Amare Mengistu
Primary Examiner